



Draw the Lines

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR LAWMAKER VISIT

Draw the Lines PA is more than a mapping contest. It's a chance for a good discussion with your representatives about the future of redistricting in Pennsylvania.

Before you go:

- Use the [Pa. legislative website](#) and Google to learn about your legislator: how to pronounce his/her name; biography, party affiliation; committee memberships; past record on the redistricting issue.
- It's a good idea to practice your presentation at least once ahead of time.
- If you set up your meeting through the DTL team, we'll have several print-outs of your map to share. If you can, bring a laptop or tablet where you have your map set up and ready to view.
- Dress in a way that is respectful to the surroundings: Don't wear shorts, sneakers, tank tops or T-shirts with off-color messages.

At the meeting:

- Arrive early but be prepared to wait. Legislators have busy schedules, and Sept. 24 is a session day, where votes on legislation may take place at any time.
- Realize you'll only have 3-5 minutes to get your key points across.
- Address the lawmaker as Representative or Senator. Address aides as Mr. or Ms.
- It's fine to use notes, but try not to just read a statement. Have a conversation.
- Begin with who you are, where you live and why you care about redistricting. Say how you see this issue connecting to other issues you care about. Tell them what bothers you about the current process/maps.
- Talk about your map and Draw the Lines. Tell them why you decided to do a map, what goals you chose, and what you learned.
- If you've talked to neighbors, colleagues, or classmates, be sure to tell the lawmaker or aides.
- Finally, tell your representative how you think election mapmaking should go in 2021 and what role you think voters should have in the process. You can make an "ask" of them, something clear and specific that you would like your legislator to do about redistricting.
- Thank the representative and his/her staff. Be respectful throughout.
- Ask for a photo of you with the legislator. Tag us @drawthelinespa and tag your legislator. Use the hashtag #slaythegerrymander.

Don't Forget the Follow up:

Immediately after the visit, you should send a thank you note or email and review key points you discussed during the meeting. Share a copy of any pictures taken with the legislator.